

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00972 181326Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /072 W  
-----027259 190836Z /10  
R 181240Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7329  
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0972

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEDR, VT, BY  
SUBJ: STATUS OF BURUNDI - VATICAN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE REMAINS UNCLEAR

REF: BUJUMBURA 0870

1. AS OF AUGUST 16 BURUNDI HAD NOT YET GRANTED AGREEMENT FOR NEW NUNCIO REQUESTED BY VATICAN IN APRIL. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF NUNCIATURE IS OF OPINION THAT POPE PAUL'S DEATH RENDERED REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT NULL AND INTENDS TO INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY IF BURUNDI (WHICH APPARENTLY DOES NOT SHARE THIS INTERPRETATION) GRANTS AGREEMENT.
2. OPINIONS DIFFER AMONG WESTERN DIPLOMATS AS TO VALIDITY OF VATICAN CHARGE'S INTERPRETATION BUT I ASSUME THAT POLICY OF SENDING STATE WOULD PREVAIL.
3. MORE IMPORTANT IS FACT THAT WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, PREPARING TO DEPART, RECEIVED AGREEMENT FOR HIS SUCCESSOR WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER REQUEST. THIS ACTION OF BURUNDI GOVERNMENT WILL STRENGTHEN IMPRESSION ALREADY WIDELY HELD THAT BURUNDI DOES NOT AT THIS TIME WANT VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE AT LEVEL OF NUNCIO, WHO WOULD ALSO BE DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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4. COMMENT: OPINIONS ALSO VARY AS TO REASONS FOR BURUNDI INACTION ON AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY AFTER VATICAN, IN DEFERENCE TO BURUNDI DESIRES, SEPARATED THE RWANDA AND BURUNDI NUNCIATURES. IT SEEMS TO US MOST LIKELY THAT BURUNDI SIMPLY DO NOT WANT HIGH LEVEL VATICAN REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVING THEIR HANDLING OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH CATHOLIC HIERARCHY AND CHURCH IN COUNTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENT, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BUJUMB00972  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014